



MICHIGAN  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
P.O. Box 30014  
LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7514

Minutes of the Joint Committee Meeting  
of  
the House Standing Committee on Oversight and Ethics  
and  
the House Standing Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs

Monday, June 13, 2016

9:00 a.m.

All Purpose Room  
Grand Rapids Home for Veterans  
3000 Monroe Ave, NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

The House Standing Committee on Oversight and Ethics was called to order by Representative Ed McBroom, Chair.

The Clerk called the roll; members present were **Representatives McBroom, Howrylak, Graves, Theis, Robinson, and Pagan. (6/6)**

The Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

The Oversight Chair turned the gavel over to the Military and Veterans Affairs Chair.

The House Standing Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs was called to order by Representative Tom Barrett, Chair.

The Clerk called the roll; members present were **Representatives Barrett, Hughes, Hooker, Outman, Glenn, Whiteford, and Rutledge. (7/9)**

Members absent and excused were **Representatives Talabi and LaGrand. (2/9)**

The Clerk announced that a quorum was present.

In the Chair: McBroom

Representative McBroom, the Presiding Chair, opened with an invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

The Chair laid before the committees the Office of the Auditor General Performance Audit.

Performance Audit of the  
**Grand Rapids Home for Veterans**

Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency  
Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
February 2016  
**Report Number: 511-0170-15**

Both Chairs made comments about the audit and the handouts, which are attached.

In the Chair: McBroom

The following residents of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans testified and some addressed questions from the joint committee members:

Norm Tope:

Kenneth Hammond, who submitted written testimony, which is attached;

Bradford Southerland, who submitted written testimony, which is attached;

Joseph Wisser, who submitted written testimony, which is attached;

Larry Noragon;

Richard L. Green; and

Michael Young.

Norma Bauer, whose husband is a resident of the home, read a letter from Betty Pike, whose husband is a resident. A copy of Mrs. Pike's letter is attached.

Maryam Al-Kabour testified about of her grandfather, who was a World War II resident of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans.

Sarah Manning, daughter of former deceased resident David Manning, testified and a copy of her written testimony is attached. Questions followed.

The following residents testified and some addressed questions:

Arnold Paolucci;

Jerry Brott;

Charles Mangold; and

Tony Spallone, who submitted written testimony, which is attached.

Cheryel Ware, wife of former deceased resident Richard Ware, testified and responded to questions. A copy of her written testimony is attached.

Richard Ference, a resident, testified, and submitted written testimony, which is attached.

At 11:39 a.m., the Oversight and Ethics Chair went at ease until 12:00 noon.

At 11:39 a.m. the Military and Veterans Affairs Chair went at ease until 12:00 noon.

At 12:00 noon, the Oversight and Ethics Chair reconvened.

At 12:00 noon, Military and Veterans Affairs Chair reconvened.

In the Chair: Barrett

**Representative Rutledge moved to excused Representatives Talabi and LaGrand from today's committee meeting.**

**There being no objection the motion prevailed by unanimous consent of the members present; the members were excused.**

In the Chair: McBroom

Danielle VanderMeulen, daughter of John VanderMeulen a resident of the home, testified and responded to questions.

The following residents testified and some responded to member's questions:

Lonnie Fields:

Wayne Brooks, who submitted written testimony, which is attached; and

Rob Troost.

Mrs. M. Rennison, wife of a deceased former resident, testified and answered questions.

Theo Bates, a former resident, testified and responded to questions.

The following residents testified:

Anthony Moore, and

Don Ridgell.

Roland Michael Brado, a resident with Catherine Buckley, a volunteer, both testified and addressed questions. Catherine Buckley submitted a copy of "**Handbook for Guardians of Adults**" by Bradley Geller to Chairmen Barrett. A copy is attached.

The following residents testified and some responded to member's questions:

Allan Plantenga;

Robert Hall;

Don Johnson;

Fred Sinclair;

Larry Krul, who submitted written testimony, which is attached; and

Jerry Lucksted, who submitted written testimony, which is attached.

The following residents submitted written testimony, which are attached, but did not testify:

Steve Wallis;

Stanley Macey;

Steven Lenoir;

Charles Casagrande;

Don Williams; and

Ron Garner.

The Chair asked the department to come forth to give their remarks.

James Robert Redford, Director for the Michigan Veteran Affairs Agency in the Michigan Department of Military and Veteran Affairs, introduced Leslie Shanlian, MSA, NHA, Chief Executive Officer for the Michigan Veteran Health System in the agency, Scott Blakeney, Chief

Operating Officer for the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans in the Michigan Military and Veterans Affairs Agency, and Robert L. Johnson, PHD, Chair of the Michigan Homes for Veterans Board of Managers in the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Agency, to the joint committees. Director Redford and Ms. Shanlian made a few brief comments and addressed questions from committee members.

Both Chairs made their final comments, both expressed their gratitude to the residents, and everyone involved in putting together the meeting.

In the Chair: Barrett

There being no other business before the committee; the Chair declared the Committee on Military and Veterans Affairs adjourned, the time being 2:39 p.m.

In the Chair: McBroom

There being no other business before the committee; **Representative Theis moved to adjourn the meeting.**

The motion prevailed, the time being 2:39 p.m.

The Chair declared the Committee on Oversight and Ethics adjourned.

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Ed McBroom, Chair  
House Standing Committee on Oversight and Ethics

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Joy Brewer, Committee Clerk

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Date approved by the committee